FACULTY SENATE
October 13th, 2009
SU-216

Minutes

Present: Tony Adams, Denise Cloonan-Cortez, Dennis Grammenos, Rodney Higginbotham, Jianfeng Jiang, Judith Kaplan-Weinger, Shahrzad Mahootian, Sue Mungre, Eleni Makris, Janalyn Meehan, Selina Mushi, Frank Perino, Dario Villa

Absent: Sandra Beyda-Lorie, David Jordan, Phyllis Le Dosquet

Ex-Officio: Provost Lawrence Frank

Guests: Tim Scherman, IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Representative

Chair Kaplan-Weinger called the meeting to order at 1:42**.**

Minutes
Motion to approve the minutes of September 22nd, 2009 by F. Perino passed pending corrections, S. Mungre abstained.

IBHE Faculty Advisory Council presentation: Tim Scherman
In relation to the spring MAP crisis, faculty members in senates across the state are making two points 1) that full time student status is required for federal funding 2) the MAP crisis discourages full time enrollment. Therefore with the loss of MAP funds, the state loses federal funds. I hope this body will weigh in with our resolution at NEIU. The proposal that MAP funding be restricted to students who have demonstrated a level of academic commitment may be self defeating and a result of circular reasoning. We should include an argument against such a proposal in our resolution.

IBHE has acknowledged that a law had been passed in 2005 that requires that an active faculty member be on the board. IBHE only wants members to be from public institutions. IBHE FAC has nominated two people. We think it is extremely important to have this person, who would have to be approved by their senate, on the board

Lastly, a memo from IBHE warns of a more severe fiscal crisis next year as the university's budget is based on the previous year's state funding. 90 Million dollars of stimulus money is gone and will not be renewed; 3.5 billion in pension obligation notes will be gone next year; bond ratings have dropped; the option to borrow from the future to pay for the past will have diminished; and while the structural deficit looms large, next years budget from the state looks terrible, even if MAP is restored. Moreover, the IBHE itself is carrying on with a diminished staff and vacancies in leadership positions.

With regards to protesting the withdrawal of MAP funding, an alliance with students is effective since in my experience the Appropriations Committee listens to student voices.

Old Business

- Discussion re: a statement of behalf of the Faculty Senate protesting the withdrawal of MAP funding.

  Motion, E. Makris (S Mahootian): That Student Government be contacted and statement in support of the reinstatement of MAP funding addressed to the governor and to Michael Madigan be written on behalf of the Faculty Senate and Student Government and sent by the Steering Committee within the next few days. Passed.

- Letter of appreciation to former Faculty Senate Chair A. Shub

  Motion, F. Perino (D. Villa): That D. Villa draft a letter of appreciation to Prof. A. Shub thanking him for his years of service in the Faculty Senate. Passed.

Report from the Chair

Chair Kaplan-Weinger expressed that she would like to find or create a flow-chart of the various university councils and committees and their relationship to the administrative bodies as well as their relationships to each other so that communications can flow accordingly. She also suggested that the Bylaws Committee should oversee the bylaws of the various councils and committee that report to the Senate to ensure that they are updated.

By-Laws Committee discussion

E. Makris asked that the tasks of the Senate Bylaws Committee be specified and suggested By-laws committee members visit the councils and committees. In order to better understand their tasks and functions.

R. Higginbotham asked what the goal of the proposed action is.

D. Villa stated that in the past departmental representatives came to the Senate and reported on the issues regarding their by-laws.

F. Perino proposed a continued discussion of the By-laws Committee's plan of action by email between the members, and these members agreed.

Discussion: the problem of missing by-laws
Motion, E. Makris (J. Meehan) 1) that the by-laws for the Council on Finance and Administration and the Council on Marketing and Communications be tracked down and made available on the website, 2) if no results, a senate member attend a meeting to of the two councils to address the problem 3) if there is no meeting called, a senator request that a meeting be convened. Passed

Standing Councils and Committees discussion

Discussion about the level of active engagement of the Standing Councils and Committees in general: E. Makris suggested that the Senate should initiate communication with the standing councils and committees.

Chair Kaplan-Weinger stated that it is important that faculty know there is a council for each VP that is made up of faculty elected to those councils. The task of each council is to serve as advisors to the VP and to act as go-betweens for faculty and the VPs. Each council needs to decide with its VP how to meet as a council with its respective VP.

J. Jianfeng reported as a member of the Council on Technology and stated the council was quite active, meeting regularly two times a month. The council has communicated with university computing services (Kim Tracy attends meetings) and developing programs. Some of the issues raised include campus-wide wireless service, a slow and out-dated Scantron, and the need for a separate grading machine for each college. However, it is not clear when these plans are to be implemented.
J. Jianfeng is also a member of the Faculty Council on Marketing and Communications and is working to have a meeting called. He reported that according to a council member, the Council on Finance and Administration has not had a meeting since last year.

Provost Frank commented that there may be overlap of this council with the Budget and Planning Committee which includes more than just faculty in its membership and reports to the Board of Trustees.

FCAA and the Senate's request for feedback

D. Grammenos reported the FCAA discussion of that body's view of functions of the Faculty Senate. One FCAA member's view of the senate was that the senate deals with the big picture as well as outside issues that affect the university, for example, the situation with MAP funding deficit. In this member's view, the senate should produce a statement in support of reinstating MAP funding. Another member brought up the example of the demonstration policy proposed by administration, saying that in his view the senate was very effective when it took this up. This member expressed concern that there was not enough communication back to the departments of senate discussions and decisions. Chair Kritikos summed up the comments by stating that the senate should be taking a position on policy and non-curricular university wide issues and higher education issues. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of each member to conduct her or himself in a manner representative of his or her faculty body. Chair Kritikos further reported that the senate wished to do a climate survey, and it was generally agreed that it would not be appropriate to piggy back the climate survey onto FCAA's grade expansion survey.
S. Mahootian questioned the "non-curricular" stipulation and asked for further clarification.

Provost's Report: Enrollment Snapshot

The final figures on enrollment look good with transfers up the most. High school graduate numbers will level off and the transfer pool is where we can look for growth. Also new graduate student numbers are up. The composition of the first two years is 30% Latino.

New Business

J. Jiang reported that the COBM faculty who have recently moved to the renovated A-wing have complained that the fire-code is interpreted in such a way that they are not allowed to have their office doors open during office hours and are, therefore, denied door-stoppers. Provost Frank agreed to look into the matter.

Minutes

The minutes for the September 22nd meeting passed (S. Mushi, D. Grammenos), pending corrections.

Tabled

Climate Survey (E. Makris)
Discussion on Shared Governance

Adjournment

(S. Mushi, F. Perino), passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shahrzad Mahootian, Secretary